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SALTBURN & MARSKE-BY-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1947

ANNUAL REPORT

by the

Medical Officer of Health
N. M. MACDONALD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and the

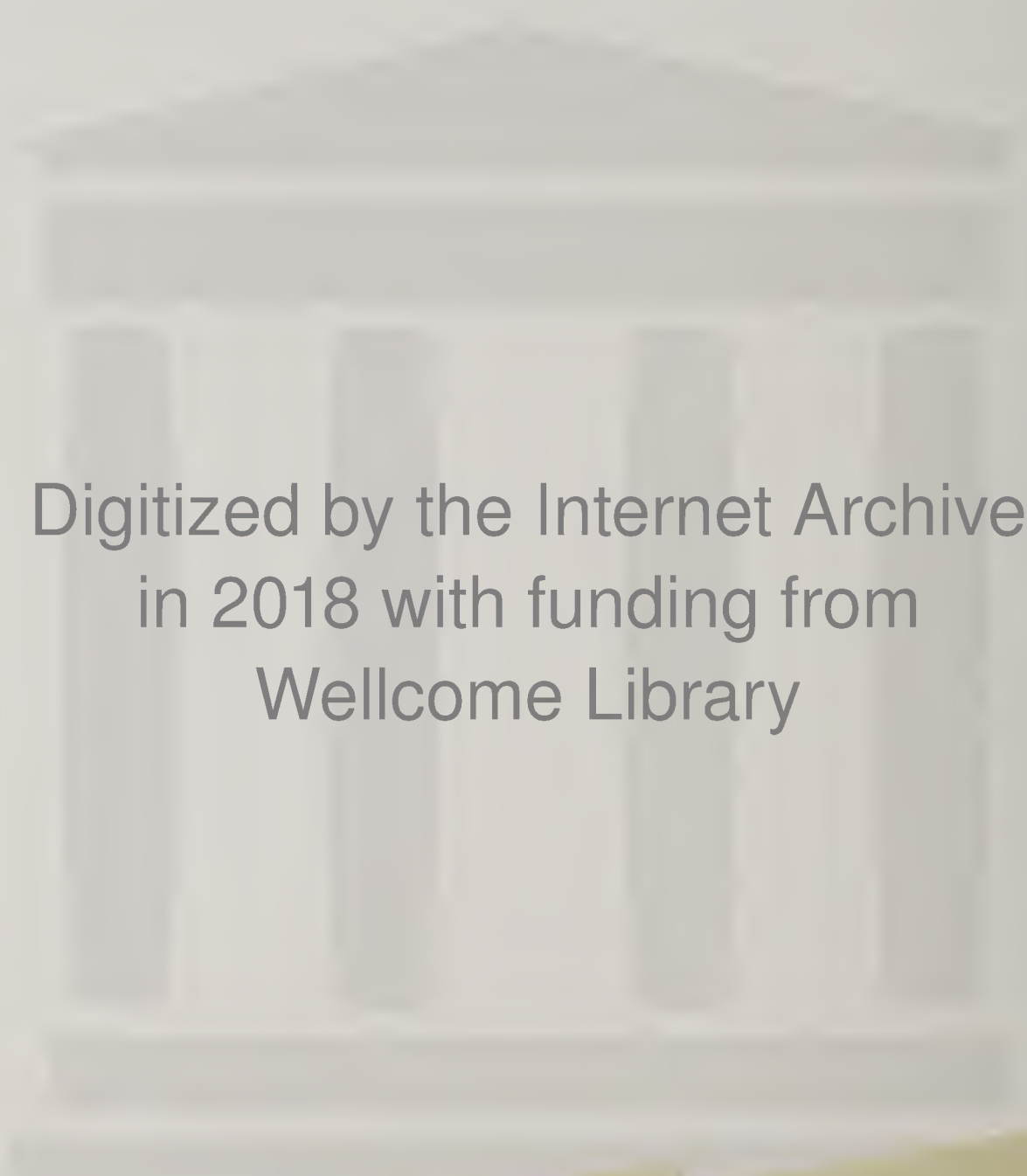
Sanitary Inspector
N. R. DARLING, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ERRATA

Page 2 - deaths from enteritis and diarrhoea - read
Rate per 1000 LIVE births.

Page 3 For "paratyhpoid" read "paratyphoid" (Deaths)

Page 10 For "diphtheira" read "diphtheria" (Line 22)



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Public Health Department,
"Teeswold",
Coatham Road,
REDCAR.

To the

CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the SALTBURN & MARSKE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my first Annual Report—that for the year 1947—on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban district.

Lack of staff has prevented its earlier appearance.

Following Dr. C. R. Gibson's retirement in March, 1947, Dr. Pratt of Guisborough acted as Medical Officer of Health, until I took up duties on August 1st, 1947.

I wish to record here my appreciation of the friendliness and help accorded me by Councillor Watson, Chairman of the Health Committee, by his successor, Councillor Gott, by other members of the Council and by the officials.

Among the latter I am especially indebted to Mr. Darling, your Sanitary Inspector, whose report is included within these covers.

Your obedient servant,

N. M. MACDONALD,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	4,573
Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid-1947)	7,404
Number of inhabited houses	2,354
Rateable value	£39,929
Sum represented by a penny rate	£202

Saltburn and Marske are residential towns and holiday resorts. Saltburn especially caters largely for summer visitors. There are plans to vary and increase the facilities provided for the entertainment of holiday makers.

New Marske and Marske-by-the-Sea are the subject of a special survey. This is reported on page 17

TABLE I
VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	Male	Female		
LIVE BIRTHS	164	73	91	—Rate per 1,000 of the population ...	22.1
Legitimate	161	71	90		
Illegitimate	3	2	1		
STILL BIRTHS					
Legitimate	5	1	4	—Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	29.5
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil		
Deaths	112	58	54	—Rate per 1,000 of the population ...	15.1

Deaths from puerperal causes ...	Nil	—	Rate per 1,000 total births ...	Nil
Deaths from other maternal causes	Nil	—	Rate per 1,000 total births ...	Nil
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	6	—	Rate per 1,000 live births ...	36.5
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year	6	—	Rate per 1,000 live births ...	36.5
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year	Nil	—	Rate per 1,000 live births ...	Nil
Deaths from enterities and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1	—	Rate per 1,000	6
Notifications of Puerperal pyrexia	Nil	—	Rate per 1,000 total births ...	Nil

The live and still birth rates and the death rate are above those for England and Wales. The greatest difference is in the death rates, and this would be accounted for by the larger proportion of aged people in Saltburn and Marske.

I am very glad to be able to report no deaths from puerperal and other maternal causes.

TABLE II

BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY
AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN
THE YEAR 1947

	Saltburn and Marske	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
Rates—per 1,000 of the Civilian Population					
BIRTHS					
Live births	22.1	20.5*	23.3	22.2	22.7
Still births	0.67	0.5*	0.62	0.54	0.49
DEATHS					
All causes	15.1	12.0*	13.0	11.9	12.8
Typhoid & Paratyphoid (Enteric Fever)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet-fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
NOTIFICATIONS					
Typhoid	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal Fever (Meningitis)	0.00	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05
Scarlet-fever	2.97	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31
Whooping Cough	2.70	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80
Diphtheria	0.00	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14
Erysipelas	0.67	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22
Measles	10.39	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29
Pneumonia	0.81	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64

* Rates per 1,000 of the total population

TABLE III

INFANT DEATHS

	Saltburn and Marske	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
DEATHS					
All causes under 1 year	36.5	41	47	36	37
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years	6	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8

Six infants died under one year of age, giving a rate of 36.5 per 1,000 live births. One of these infants died of diarrhoea or enteritis.

The table on the following page gives an analysis of the total deaths for 1947, and their age and sex distribution.

112 deaths occurred during the year, 77 of them or 68% being of persons over the age of 65 years. Diseases of the heart and blood vessels, that is, those in groups 19, 18 and 20, caused 43, 20 and 7 deaths respectively. These conditions, therefore, accounted for 62% of all deaths.

TABLE IV
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES AND IN AGE GROUPS

Cause of death	MALES							FEMALES						
	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-	Total	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...														
2. Cerebro-spinal fever ...														
3. Scarlet fever ...														
4. Whooping Cough ...														
5. Diphtheria ...														
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...				1	1		2				3			5
7. Other tuberculous diseases ...														
8. Syphilis ...	1						1							1
9. Influenza ...					1		1					1		2
10. Measles ...														
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ...														
12. Acute infectious encephalitis ...														
13. Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (M) uterus (F)														
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...					1	1	2						1	1
15. Cancer of breast ...													1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites ...					2	5	7					1	3	4
17. Diabetes ...														
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...					3	6	9					3	8	11
19. Heart disease ...					3	18	21				1	2	19	22
20. Other circulatory diseases ...						2	2						5	5
21. Bronchitis ...	1				1	2	4							4
22. Pneumonia ...		1				1	2						1	1
23. Other respiratory diseases ...														3
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...														
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	1						1							1
26. Appendicitis ...														
27. Other digestive diseases ...						1	1				1			2
28. Nephritis ...														
29. Puerperal sepsis ...														
30. Other maternal causes ...														
31. Premature birth ...	1						1							1
32. Congenital malformation birth injury, etc. ...	1						1	1						2
33. Suicide ...														
34. Road traffic ...														
35. Other violent causes ...			1		1		2							2
36. All other causes ...					1		1						2	3
TOTAL—ALL CAUSES	5	1	1	1	14	36	58	1	—	—	5	7	41	54
														112

CLINIC FACILITIES IN THE AREA

Although the Urban District Council does not control the services it will be of interest to give details of the clinics, etc., run in Saltburn and Marske by the North Riding County Council.

Antenatal Clinics—

Marske Church Hall. Third Friday in month at 10-0 a.m.

Child Welfare Sessions—

Marske Church Hall. Alternate Mondays at 2-0 p.m. and

The Clinic, "Orleans", Windsor Road, Saltburn.

Alternate Wednesdays at 2-0 p.m.

Minor Ailment Clinics—

The Clinic, "Orleans", Windsor Road, Saltburn.

Every Wednesday at 9-30 a.m.

Immunisation Sessions—

The Clinic, "Orleans", Windsor Road, Saltburn.

Every Wednesday at 10-0 a.m. and

Alternate Wednesdays at 2-0 p.m.

Marske Church Hall. Third Friday in month at 2-0 p.m.

New Marske Infants School. Third Monday in month at 2-0 p.m.

Consultant Ophthalmic sessions are held, as required, at West Dyke School, Redcar. Saltburn and Marske children attend, by appointment, the Ear, Nose and Throat specialist's clinic at South Bank, and the Orthopaedic clinic at Redcar.

There is a chest clinic at Skelton which deals with children and adults from Saltburn and Marske.

Dental sessions are held at the Clinic at "Orleans", Windsor Road, Saltburn.

More frequent minor ailment clinics are desirable. More dental sessions are particularly needed, but I fear that lack of nursing and dental personnel will indefinitely prevent any extension of existing services.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Despite the difficulties attendant upon a life and death struggle, the Government, during the recent war, devised the National Health Service, which will come into operation on July 5th, 1948.

All who have the welfare of the community at heart, must agree that the advancement of preventive medicine, and of curative medicine is essential. Loud and diverse are the arguments as to the best means of approach, but there can be only one goal, the establishment throughout the country of a Health Service of the highest order.

When that object is achieved the facilities at present enjoyed only in the most progressive and enlightened areas will be found in all. And here I would stress the over-riding importance of education in the promotion of health. By education I do not mean schooling in the ordinary subjects, but in the advantages to be gained by developing a positive outlook on health.

The Public Health Service, or Preventive Medicine, in this country, has been built upon the work of men who, in the face of prejudiced and violent opposition, persevered and succeeded in their efforts to abate and prevent the frightful outbreaks of smallpox, cholera, and other killing and disabling diseases.

Ignorance, prejudice and apathy are not manifestations of a distant past. They are with us still, impeding progress, and worst of all is apathy. As recently as eight years ago diphtheria claimed 46,000 victims in England and Wales.

It is a curious reflection upon a small but important section of the community, that any "plugging" of this, that or the other, by a health worker, immediately arouses suspicion.

The listener wonders "Now what is he (or she) getting out of this? These people are paid to go round with their sales-talk, and I expect they get a bonus for each child immunised, or vaccinated, or wearing spectacles, etc."

At a meeting I have been asked, by an apparently intelligent man, if many school children were referred to an ophthalmic specialist, not because of eye troubles, but so that either the doctor, or the optician, or both, could have a bigger "rake-off".

A surprisingly large number of parents are confused about immunisation and vaccination, and believe that they are practised with the idea of preventing many more diseases than diphtheria and smallpox. Hence the disgust expressed when a child who has been either immunised or vaccinated develops, say, measles.

These parents are the ones whose arguments run—"I was never immunised (or vaccinated) and I never ailed anything. My grandfather was vaccinated and he had measles, whooping cough, a rupture and gall stones."

Now the importance of this minority of our folk lies in the harm they can do—unwittingly I believe—to children in their care, and in the effect their mistaken views have upon other parents who may be wavering. It is well known that folk will act upon the weighty words of a neighbour and ignore absolutely the advice of a doctor or nurse. Often we find a mother bringing her child to be immunised, not because she has been "chivvied" by nurse and doctor, but simply because Mrs. So-and-so next door thought it was a good thing.

The Central Council for Health Education was established in 1927. It provides expert advice and assistance to Local Authorities on such matters as Health campaigns and propaganda and it is supported by the Ministry of Health.

The Central Council also issues instructive pamphlets and placards to clinics and dispensaries, to hotels and other establishments serving food and drink to the public. The provision of safe and wholesome food and drink is of concern to all, and especially to a district like this which depends so much on summer visitors. I will refer to this again under "Food and Drink Infection".

The poster with the words "Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases" has been seen by most of us. What proportion of us pays heed to this obvious warning?

Ordinary good manners and consideration for others would make such a poster unnecessary. But let us stand in a queue, travel by bus or train, go to a theatre or cinema, and fortunate we are if we escape being freely sprayed with the spittle of coughers and sneezers.

Another pamphlet distributed by the Central Council for Health Education is entitled "Unwelcome Guests". The "guests" are lice, fleas and bugs.

A lot of rubbish is thought and talked about vermin. Folk who might be expected to know better, believe, or profess to believe, that some persons are by nature lousy. Every now and then a mother says that her child's blood is too weak, or too strong, or that the child's hair is of the kind that attracts lice, or that the child's general condition draws vermin.

The life and habits of the louse have been thoroughly investigated. No person has been found to have skin, hair or blood which was more acceptable to the louse than skin, hair and blood of other persons.

It has been proved, however, and it is commonly known that some human hosts are not disturbed by the bites of lice, fleas and bugs. Other people suffer acute and prolonged itching when bitten.

Now the life of a louse attacking the latter group is uneasy and short. The irritated host scratches and hunts until his tormentors are destroyed. Therefore, such people are rarely infested.

The former group, those who feel little or no discomfort when bitten, will soon become infested unless they take ordinary pride in their persons and practise ordinary cleanliness.

In some parts of the country more than fifty per cent of young women going into the forces were verminous.

Anyone may pick up vermin in a conveyance, a place of entertainment, or at work. Despite overcrowding and other difficulties today, there is no excuse whatsoever for those who are persistently lousy. Active help and advice are gladly given by Health Department staffs to those anxious to disinfest themselves and their homes.

The Central Council, along with Health Visitors and School Nurses, Sanitary Inspectors, District Nurses, Doctors, Dentists, Social and Welfare Workers have been, and are doing their best to make the people health conscious.

I am convinced that informed lay persons in their daily contacts at work and leisure, could give valuable help in rousing the public to take an interest in health matters. And no lay body in any community should be as well qualified, or as keen, as the Local Health Committee, to keep the public informed and abreast of developments.

Unless we can sufficiently interest John Citizen and his wife, and their children, in the promotion and maintenance of health, mental and physical, the National Health Service will not achieve its object. And that would be a pity.

TABLE V

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

				1947 Population 7,404	1946 Population 7,103	1945 Population 6,519
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	22	12	13
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	6
Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid)				—	—	2
Measles	...	...	...	77	13	102
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	20	9	21
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	—	—	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	5	2	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	2	2
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)	...	...	...	2	—	—
Amoebic Dysentery	...	...	...	1†	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	...	...	...	7	9	5
Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	—	2	—

† H.M. Forces

Measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever, accounted for most of the notifications in each of the past three years.

TABLE VI

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1947

			Saltburn	Marske	New Marske
Scarlet Fever	...	...	6	9	7
Measles	...	...	37	21	19
Whooping Cough	...	...	18	2	—
Pneumonia	...	...	4	—	2
Erysipelas	...	...	1	3	1
Poliomyelitis	...	...	1	1	—
Amoebic Dysentery	...	...	—	1†	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	2	4	1

† H.M. Forces

TABLE VII

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE ADMITTED TO THE
JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL, GUISBOROUGH, 1947

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	19
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)					2
					—
				Total	21
					—

Four other cases were admitted for observation, but in no case was the final diagnosis one of notifiable disease.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DIPHTHERIA

I have mentioned this infection already. Indeed I find it difficult to keep off it, for it is a disease which should not occur in this country today.

The incidence of diphtheria in the years 1940—47 is shown in the following table :—

DIPHTHERIA		
Year	Deaths	Cases
1940	2,480	46,281
1941	2,641	50,797
1942	1,827	41,404
1943	1,371	34,662
1944	934	29,949
1945	722	25,246
1946	472	18,283
1947	245	10,469

The figures for 1947 are provisional, but it is obvious that the downward trend is being maintained.

It is estimated that if 75% of children were immunised, diphtheria would be stamped out. Some areas have exceeded that figure, but less than 50% of Saltburn and Marske children are protected.

In 1947, 88 children were immunised for the first time, and 44 children were given a reinforcing injection.

There have been no cases of diphtheria for two years. Such a pleasing state of affairs may lead to a false sense of security liable to be rudely dispelled.

In the decreasing incidence of diphtheria there lies the risk that—as with smallpox and vaccination—people will tend to think “There hasn’t been any diphtheria here for years; we needn’t bother having the children immunised”.

And so, unless we can impress on the public the need to make immunisation a routine procedure for all children, we will be exposed to the risk of a sudden flare-up of diphtheria. The danger of epidemics is greater in areas like Saltburn and Marske, which have a large seasonal influx of visitors.

SCARLET FEVER

22 cases of scarlet fever were notified in 1947. They were generally of the mild type prevalent in recent years. There were no deaths from scarlet fever during the year.

MEASLES

77 cases of measles were notified in 1947.

There were no deaths from measles.

WHOOPING COUGH

20 cases of whooping cough were notified in 1947.

Immunisation against whooping cough has been widely practised for some years in the United States, and in Canada, but, so far, in this country, only a few Health Authorities make provision for this. Large scale trial immunisation is being carried out with Ministry of Health support in some of the larger centres, and other authorities are offering immunisation independently at their clinics.

There is an increasing demand for immunisation, as whooping cough, with its serious complications is a disease to be feared.

In Saltburn and Marske, parents who wish to have their children inoculated against whooping cough get this done by the family doctor.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS)

The 1947 epidemic of infantile paralysis was much the most serious recorded in the British Isles since the disease first became notifiable in 1912. The corrected notifications in 1947 totalled about 7,500. The highest figure recorded in any previous year was in 1926, when there were 1,397 cases.

In view of the thousands of visitors to the area, from districts known to have widespread cases, more than a little concern was felt. Routine precautions were taken in schools for a month after the last case was notified.

In view of our limited knowledge of the mode or modes of transmission of this disease such precautions as we did take were presumptive.

How many abortive, but none-the-less infectious, attacks occurred in the area will never be known, but we were most fortunate in having only two confirmed cases. They were, a pre-school child who developed slight weakness of one arm and leg, and an adult who did not show any paralysis.

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year seven new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs were notified. There were five deaths from respiratory and two from other forms of tuberculosis.

Deaths from all forms of tuberculosis in England and Wales, in 1946, were the lowest on record—22,847. And yet the notification rate has been mounting steadily since 1939. Possible explanations for these diverse trends are, a new awareness on the part of the public for the desirability of early examination of contacts, and the use in some areas of routine mass radiography.

Tuberculosis is still the cause of almost one third of all deaths between the ages of 15 and 39 years.

A tragic feature of the present time is the lack of nursing personnel in tuberculosis sanatoria. Wards have had to be closed, while others are short-staffed.

The inevitable result is that there are long delays in many cases, before patients are admitted to hospital. Not only may the waiting period at home lessen the patient's ultimate chance of recovery, but the other members of the household are liable to be infected. The danger depends partly on the individual resistance; on the degree of exposure, which is closely bound up with housing conditions; on the extent of the disease, and on unknown factors.

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1947

Male Age Groups							Female Age Groups							
0-	10-	20-	30-	40-	50-	total	0-	10-	20-	30-	40-	50-	total	total
—	—	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	4	—	—	—	4	7

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION

From the coming into operation of the National Health Service in July, 1948, vaccination will not be compulsory. In effect there has been no compulsion for many years, and only about 40% of children born nowadays are vaccinated.

It is hoped in the future to rely on persuasion and common sense to achieve a satisfactory level of protection for our people against smallpox.

Under the Vaccination Acts, one doctor attempted to carry out free vaccination over a large area. In the new Health Service, free vaccination will be performed by all family doctors who wish to join the scheme—and the vast majority of them have agreed to vaccinate their own patients.

Why is such a small proportion of our population protected against smallpox?

Most certainly it is because smallpox is a comparatively rare disease nowadays in the British Isles. That is the chief reason. Others are, ignorance of the object of vaccination, prejudice against any form of "interference with nature", and, of course, just apathy.

Now vaccination is today more necessary than it has been at any time since it helped to stamp out smallpox. Although there is unceasing vigilance on the part of our Public Health personnel at sea- and air-ports, every now and then, some traveller incubating smallpox enters the country. The incubation period is that stage of the disease before the signs appear, but the individual is none-the-less infectious, and a menace to all who come in contact with him.

In 1947, there were 79 cases of smallpox in England with 15 deaths. In these days of rapid transit from countries where smallpox is endemic, it is easy for persons incubating the disease to travel far and wide before signs of illness appear.

Every infant should be vaccinated. Advantages of early vaccination are early protection, with little likelihood of general upset, and less chance of upset if vaccination has to be done again in later life. Vaccination of infants is as simple as diphtheria immunisation and just as important.

FOOD AND DRINK INFECTIONS

The prevention of disease caused by food and drink is a matter of obvious concern to an area like this, which caters so much for holiday-makers.

It is pleasing to know that no cases of food poisoning were notified as such during 1947. One infant under two years of age died of enteritis.

Food poisoning, like most illnesses, may kill, or it may be so mild that the patient does not call in the doctor. Even when medical attention is sought because of the usual bellyache, diarrhoea and vomiting, there may not be enough evidence to notify the case as food poisoning.

We must not preen ourselves on our present good fortune, for in the past few years, all over the country, there has been a sharp increase in the number of cases classed as food and drink infections.

During 1947, in the 126 great towns, and the 148 smaller towns in England and Wales, over 4,000 infants under two years of age died of enteritis or gastro-enteritis. That deplorable death roll occurred in a population of about twenty-six and a half million, and probably most of these deaths could have been avoided. An important factor in the infant mortality rate is the decline in breast feeding. Today only about 50% of babies are breast fed beyond the age of four

months. In addition to food poisoning, which is a form of gastro-enteritis, the other chief infections conveyed by food and drink are :—

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS, which kills every year between 1,500 and 2,000 persons—most of them young—in England and Wales. Many thousands more are disabled.

This type of tuberculosis is almost invariably spread by raw milk from tuberculous cows.

DYSENTERY AND THE ENTERIC FEVERS (TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID). These diseases are conveyed in excreta to food and drink. The carrying agents are dirty fingers, flies or contaminated water.

SCARLET FEVER, TONSILLITIS AND DIPHTHERIA. These diseases are usually carried directly in the spittle from person to person. When otherwise spread it is nearly always by raw milk into which some careless person has coughed or sneezed.

Why has there been recently a great increase in food and drink infections?

The probable causes are (1) a lowered standard of personal and public hygiene arising during the war; (2) the great expansion of communal feeding, and (3) the increase in the use of “made-up” foods.

How can these diseases be prevented?

Again, we come back to the most important factor—education of the public, of individuals, in this case food and drink handlers. And food and drink handlers are obviously not confined to hotels, canteens, and other public catering establishments. They are in every home.

First and foremost, scrupulous personal cleanliness is essential on the part of every person engaged in the handling of food and drink at every stage. It seems superfluous to add that facilities should be available for achieving scrupulous cleanliness both in person and premises.

There should be medical supervision of handlers, whether they be engaged in factories preparing and packing foods, or employed in hotels, restaurants, canteens and shops; on ice-cream barrows, market stalls, etc.

Workers in school kitchens and school canteens should be under particularly careful observation as children are more at risk than are the older sections of the community.

It is many a long day since strict measures were introduced to ensure wholesome water supplies. And yet, every year we have to report the deaths of between 1,500 and 2,000 young persons because we have failed to tackle effectively the problem of tuberculous milk.

Milk from Tuberculin-tested herds is safe, and so is pasteurised milk. Raw milk is not safe. Until the long-overdue day when milk is compulsorily pasteurised, or drawn from otherwise healthy herds, which are regularly tuberculin-tested, all raw milk should be boiled before use.

We have a lot of hard teaching to do, and prejudices to overcome. In this, the help of informed lay persons would be invaluable.

RINGWORM

This is a contagious rather than an infectious disease, and is particularly intractable when it attacks the hair. The condition is due to a fungus whose site of election is the hair of the head, and it nearly always affects only those under fourteen years.

Usually ringworm is spread by direct contact from child to child, a simple matter. In its early stages, which may last for weeks, the disease is rarely noticeable to naked eye examination. By the time it becomes obvious, each case has had ample opportunity to spread the contagion.

A letter has been sent to all hairdressers in the district, asking them to be especially watchful when dealing with children, and to take every care that instruments and towels are free from contamination. No barber could be blamed for cutting hair that appeared to be perfectly normal, but, as I have mentioned, such hair may be in the initial stages of ringworm, and precautions should be taken accordingly.

Three children have attended the clinic during the year.

Usually treatment is necessary for months, in some instances for a year or longer, so children are not excluded from school. Indeed there is more supervision of many of them at school than there is at home. We can be sure that at least while under the teacher's eye those heads known to be affected are constantly kept covered.

SCABIES

This is another condition which is contagious rather than infectious. It is readily spread by direct contact as when children hold hands or tumble over each other at play.

Scabies is caused by a tiny creature, the itch mite, which is invisible to the naked eye. It attacks places where the skin is thin, such as the webs of the fingers, the under surface of the wrists, the belly and so on. It is rarely found on the face or head.

When it does lodge in the skin, the itch mite causes a very small watery blister to appear. Itching is the chief symptom and, especially when the victim is warm in bed does the irritation become intolerable. It is impossible to sleep, scratching leads to septic sores, and the patient, adult or child, suffers acutely. In its early stages, before incessant scratching has caused sores, scabies can be readily cured.

As with vermin, anyone may be unlucky enough to get infested with the itch mite. And also as with vermin, there is no excuse for those families who always have one or more members affected and keep scabies going all the year round.

I am glad that we have found few cases of scabies in Saltburn and Marske.

HOUSING

In this area, as in so many others, the most immediate and pressing problem is the serious shortage of houses.

Only those who have to put up with it can appreciate the difficulties of being homeless, year in, year out. Over-crowded quarters, shared indefinitely by the most angelic of in-laws, become the scenes of fussin' and fightin' and feudin', as a comic song puts it. There is nothing amusing in it for those involved, be they young married folks, children, or elderly couples.

Where families are compelled to live in one or more rented rooms, restrictions are inevitable, and children feel that as much as, or more than, their parents do. No normal child can be kept quiet for long, and noisy play so often brings down the wrath of landlord or landlady. And the squabbling and bickering goes on, to the distress of all concerned.

It is not surprising that the results of the strain and worry of prolonged homelessness are becoming obvious in many cases.

At the end of 1947 there were 538 families on the waiting list. Of that total, 223 were from Saltburn, 172 from Marske-by-the-Sea, and 34 from New Marske. Applicants suffering from tuberculosis or exposed to risk of infection are given top priority.

	Saltburn	Marske	New Marske
Permanent Houses completed in 1947			
Local Authority	4	Nil	Nil
Private Enterprise	5	Nil	Nil
Temporary Houses completed in 1947	Nil	36	Nil
Permanent Houses under construction in 1947			
Local Authority	20	8	Nil
Private Enterprise	17	Nil	Nil
Temporary Houses under construction in 1947	Nil	Nil	Nil

WATER SUPPLIES

There has been no change in the source of water supplies during the year.

The unusually long spell of hot dry weather gave some cause for anxiety as the reservoirs fell to an exceptionally low level.

Extensions were made to existing pipe lines to serve the new houses built and under construction during the year.

Summaries of bacteriological and chemical analyses are given on the following page .

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SAMPLES

Date of Sample	Where taken	Colonies on Agar at 37° C after 72 hours	Colonies on Agar at 20° C after 72 hours	Presumptive B. Coli test at 37° C after 72 hours	Clostridium Welchii test at 45° C
1.3.47	6" main, Upleatham	3 in 2 c.c.	9 in 2 c.c.	Negative in 100 c.c.	Negative in 40 c.c.
23.6.47	6" main, Upleatham	3 in 2 c.c.	8 in 1 c.c.	Negative in 90 c.c.	Negative in 40 c.c
30.7.47	6" main	0 in 1 c.c.	3 in 1 c.c.	Negative in 100 c.c.	Negative in 40 c.c.
Date of Sample	Where taken	Colonies on Agar at 37° C after 48 hours	Probable number of Colliform Bacilli on MacConkeys Medium after 48 hours at 37° C.		
7.7.47	Marske-by-the-Sea Tea Kiosk,	Less than one	1 per 100 c.c. Approximate proportions of faecal and non-faecal coli (a) Faecal ... Nil% (b) Non-Faecal ... 100%		

CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER SAMPLES

Date of Sample Where taken	1st March, 1947 6" Main, Upleatham	23rd June, 1947 6" Main, Upleatham	30th July, 1947 6" Main, Upleatham
PARTS PER 100,000			
Chlorine as Chlorides	1.9000	2.0500	2.0500
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.0314	0.0070	0.0131
Ammonia ...	0.0167	0.0034	0.0013
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0061	0.0069	0.0071
Oxygen Absorption ...	0.1576	0.1840	0.1852
Injurious Metals ...	None	None	None
Total Solids dried at 100° C ...	9.000	11.000	12.000
Temporary Hardness	0.2 degrees	0.4 degrees	0.22 degrees
Permanent Hardness	4.0 degrees	3.8 degrees	4.8 degrees

SWIMMING BATHS

In August 1947 the pumping machinery broke down at the public baths. Since then the baths have been closed.

Repair or replacement of machinery, and modernisation of the baths presented difficulties and costs which made any action in that direction impossible, for the time being at any rate.

SKELTON BECK

The seaward portion of this stream was partially dammed to provide a small pond for rowing boats and canoes. During the dry hot weather the stream became a trickle, and there was scarcely any flow of water through the pond.

Complaints were made about the smell from the pond, and samples of the water were found to be heavily contaminated with faecal organisms.

It was advised that one or more sluice gates be built to allow of regular flushing out and cleansing of that portion of the beck used as a boating pond.

SPECIAL SURVEY

NEW MARSKE and MARSKE-BY-THE-SEA

During the latter half of the year an extensive survey was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. I made several visits of inspection in dry and in wet weather.

Two hundred and eighty-five houses have no water closets. About eighty families have to draw their water supplies from stand pipes in yards, either deep in mud, or dusty and fly infested, as was the case during the dry hot summer.

The ancient pail closets constantly require attention, and many are leaking into the communal back yards. If there is anything in the theory that infantile paralysis is conveyed from human excreta by flies, then let us be thankful that there were no cases in New Marske.

Let us also be thankful that we had no case of dysentery or enteric fever in conditions so favourable to the spread of such diseases.

Negotiations have been in progress with the property owners for a considerable time. Delays have been caused by lack of staff, aggravated by the departure of the Surveyor to another post.

In Marske-by-the-Sea 64 houses are without water closets, and 44 families draw water from stand-pipes. Here, as in New Marske, efforts have been made over a long period, and continue to be made, to have conditions improved.

There is reason to hope that soon something tangible will be done to provide ordinary amenities for those at present lacking them, in New Marske and in Marske-by-the-Sea.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

This is a subject in which the average citizen takes little or no interest. The reply to a remark of mine, about the outpouring of thick black smoke from some factory chimneys was "Where there's muck there's money". There was no appreciation of the damage to health, and the enormous waste involved in the production of such smoke.

It has been calculated that two and a half million tons of coal are lost each year in smoke. The invisible gases which are dissipated in the smoke are equivalent to several million more tons of fuel, so that if there was no "muck" there would be a good deal more money.

We all pay lip service to the sentiment "Clear air and sunshine, clean surroundings and a healthy environment for children". The National Smoke Abatement Society have been striving hard and long to bring about a reduction, and ultimately, elimination of atmospheric pollution. Their efforts continue and are worthy of every support.

Of the two great causes of smoke, the domestic source is the more difficult to deal with. However, there are in production appliances which enormously cut down coal consumption and smoke emission, while at the same time giving added comfort and cleanliness. It is hoped that in a not distant future every new house will have such an appliance fitted.

Permission to set up any power-using establishment should be conditional upon the satisfying of the local authority that all possible steps will be taken to eliminate smoke.

In Saltburn and Marske, we are comparatively fortunate, as there descends on us only part of the industrial and domestic smoke from Tees-side. But we need only go a few miles away to see the blackened houses, the gardens with neither fresh green grass nor flourishing flowers. No home can be kept bright and clean under that persistent pall of foul, evil-smelling smoke. The housewife's work is a never-ending and a losing battle with grime.

Smoke blots out a great proportion of our ration of sunshine—a ration that would be meagre even were there no pollution of the air. Smoke brings the fogs, and up goes the incidence of, and the death rate from chest diseases.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1947

N. R. DARLING, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
CERTIFICATED MEAT INSPECTOR

To the

CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the SALTBURN & MARSKE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report on the sanitary conditions of the district, in accordance with the circular of the Ministry of Health, for the period ending 31st December, 1947.

On commencing my duties as your sanitary inspector on the 1st March, 1947, it was found that all records and registers were out of date and that there was virtually no sanitary inspection of the district. This appears to have been due to the surveyor being fully occupied with his own duties and to a lack of qualified assistance.

The necessary stationery was obtained and registers compiled as required by the legislation in force.

The work carried out in the area is set out under the respective headings.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

Visits were made to all food preparation and sales premises in the district and the various commodities examined for fitness for human consumption. The total weight of foodstuffs condemned was 630½ lbs. and comprised the following articles :—

Frozen Meat	...	...	283	lbs.
Fresh Meat	...	...	12	lbs.
Butter	...	...	20½	lbs.
Tinned Food	...	...	186	lbs.
Sugar	...	...	129	lbs.
				630½ lbs.

MILK SUPPLY

Milk produced at the 19 farms in the area is of a good standard, but conditions under which some supplies are handled are far from satisfactory, seven of the farms having no dairy premises for the cooling and bottling of milk. Two new dairies were erected and plans for a third were submitted during the year.

PASTEURISATION PLANTS

There is a licensed plant in operation in the district. This is of the "Clover Leaf" pattern and was originally used in connection with cheese, butter and dried milk plant. During one period the recording thermometer equipment was out of order and trouble was experienced in obtaining replacements. Spare equipment is now kept for emergency use. A number of samples were taken during the year, all of which showed that the milk was being processed correctly.

DELIVERY OF MILK

A considerable quantity of milk is sold loose from cans in the area, and the continual opening of the cans and dipping of measures is not in the best interests of a clean milk supply. A shortage of labour, the high cost of bottles and a high percentage of breakages of bottles are reasons given for this method of delivery.

The following are cowkeepers and dairymen registered under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, Milk & Dairies Order, 1926 :—

Cowkeepers ...	...	...	19
Wholesale Traders ...	...	...	11
Retail Sellers ...	...	...	13

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-46

The following registered producers are within the Urban Area :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk Producers ...	...	2
Accredited Milk Producers ...	...	3

The following licences were issued by the Council :—

To bottle and sell Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	...	2
To sell Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	...	1
To Pasteurise Milk ...	...	1
To retail Pasteurised Milk ...	...	3

MILK SAMPLES

Four samples of milk were taken and tested by the methylene blue and the coliform tests. Two of the samples proved unsatisfactory, both being accredited milks. As these were from an adjoining area the Sanitary Authorities of that district were notified. Two samples were tested for tubercle bacilli but the results were negative.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938

No premises had been registered under the above Act for the Manufacture and/or Sale of Ice-cream, the Manufacture of Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Food including sausage.

The following applications were received and approved by the Council :—

For the Manufacture and Sale of Ice-cream ...	...	2
For the Sale of Ice-cream ...	...	7
For the Manufacture of Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Foods		8

MEAT SUPPLIES

No animals other than bacon pigs are slaughtered in the area. Slaughtering is carried out at Middlesbrough and the meat is delivered to the allocation centre at Redcar and distributed from there. Two visits were made to the Slaughter House at Middlesbrough by permission of the sanitary inspector, and the meat is handled in a very clean and satisfactory manner.

Complaints have been received from local butchers as to the condition of the meat on delivery to their shops. This appears to be due to the number of times the meat is handled before the final delivery and to stacking in the delivery waggons.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Three slaughtermen engaged in the slaughtering of pigs applied for the renewal of licences to slaughter animals.

SHELLFISH

One person was found to be preparing locally gathered winkles for sale, contrary to the Order in force prohibiting this. A warning was given and no further trouble has been experienced.

FACTORY ACT, 1937

A register was compiled and 27 of these premises which come within the jurisdiction of this Act were visited, 13 notices were served in respect of lack of cleanliness, insufficient sanitary conveniences and other offences against the Act. There are two underground bakeries in the district. One outworker is employed in the area.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

2,325 Visits were made to premises within the Urban Area for the purpose of inspection and it was found necessary to serve 388 notices in respect of nuisances and contraventions of Public Health, Milk & Dairies, Food & Drugs, Factory and other Acts and Orders.

The following is a tabulated statement of the inspections made during the ten months under review :—

Total number of inspections	...	...	2325
Total number of nuisances found	...	...	652
Total number of nuisances abated	...	...	591
Total number of informal notices	...	...	388
Total number of Statutory Notices	...	...	4
Total number of informal notices complied with			364
Total number of informal notices outstanding			24

SANITARY WORKS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Leaking roofs	...	...	...	75
Defective eavesgutters	...	...	...	56
Defective downpipes	...	...	...	24
Damp walls	...	...	...	51
Defective floors	...	...	...	25
Insanitary ashpits	...	...	...	28
Defective privy pails	...	...	...	18
Defective ashbins	...	...	...	13
Defective hatches to pail closets	...	...	...	19
Dirty houses	...	...	...	7
Defective W.C. basins	...	...	...	8
Defective W.C. cones	...	...	...	2
Defective W.C. cistern	...	...	...	1
Defective W.C. seats	...	...	...	6
Defective W.C. doors	...	...	...	7
Waste of water	...	...	...	3
Burst pipes	...	...	...	6
Absence of sufficient water supply	...	...	...	27

SANITARY WORKS AND IMPROVEMENTS (continued)

Defective ceilings	...	...	...	8
Defective plaster	...	...	...	7
Choked drains	...	...	...	16
Defective drains	...	...	...	14
Opening drains without notice	...	...	...	2
Leaking soil pipes	...	...	...	4
Absence of and defective manhole covers	...	...	...	16
Untrapped waste pipes	...	...	...	6
Sink wastes discharging on to yard surface	...	...	...	9
Absence of sink and drains	...	...	...	9
Defective washbasin and bath waste pipes	...	...	...	9
Defective kitchen sinks	...	...	...	6
Defective washbasins	...	...	...	2
Perished pointing	...	...	...	14
Defective rendering	...	...	...	2
Defective brickwork	...	...	...	10
Defective yard paving	...	...	...	9
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	11
Dangerous overmantle	...	...	...	1
Decaying vegetation	...	...	...	1
Defective Elson Closet	...	...	...	1
Smoky chimney	...	...	...	1
Dangerous staircase	...	...	...	1
Broken cellar floor	...	...	...	1
No ventilation to W.C.	...	...	...	1
Selling winkles from foreshore	...	...	...	1
Defective hinges to doors	...	...	...	5
Defective woodwork	...	...	...	36
Defective firegrates, etc.	...	...	...	8
Dilapidated outbuildings	...	...	...	3
Keeping animals on camp	...	...	...	2
Defective urinals	...	...	...	3
No separate approach to toilets	...	...	...	2
Flooding in cellar	...	...	...	3
Overcrowding	...	...	...	2
Breach of Meat Regulations	...	...	...	2
Breach of Milk & Dairies Order	...	...	...	8
Breach of Food & Drugs Act	...	...	...	20
Breach of Milk (Special Designations) Orders	...	...	...	6
Breach of Shops Act	...	...	...	5
Breach of Factory Act	...	...	...	13

656

STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED

Leaking roofs ...	...	...	8
Damp walls ...	...	...	4
Defective plaster	...	...	1
Defective W.C. basin	...	...	1
Dilapidated outbuildings	...	...	1
Defective eavesgutters	...	...	2
Defective fireplace	...	...	1
Defective woodwork	...	...	2
Defective downpipes	...	...	1
Defective waste pipes	...	...	3
Defective yard paving	...	...	1
Defective pointing	...	...	1
Smoking chimney	...	...	1
			—
			27
			—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION

Number of infected houses visited	...	...	24
Number of infected houses disinfected	...	...	24
Number of schools disinfected	...	...	4
Number of classrooms disinfected	...	...	10

DRAINAGE WORK

One conversion of a pail closet to the water carriage system was carried out. A survey of the New Marske area was made and the results are very unsatisfactory, of 285 properties visited only 48 were found to have water closets and 76 houses are without a sufficient water supply. A scheme is being prepared for this area and it is hoped that the supply position will have eased sufficiently to allow for consent to be given by the appropriate Ministries for the work of converting these insanitary relics. During the hot summer weather the offensive odours were constantly apparent to any passer-by and children were seen playing in the leakages and spillage from the pails in the back streets. I feel that the conversion of these pail closets to water closets would be a big improvement in the living conditions of this area and reduce the likelihood of an outbreak of infectious disease.

TABLE OF DRAINAGE WORK CARRIED OUT

Yards of new drains laid	...	...	176 yds.
Soil pipe renewed	...	...	44 ft.
Manholes provided	...	...	11
W.C. basins provided	...	...	19
Gullies provided	...	...	32
Sinks provided	...	...	6
Intercepting traps	...	...	4
Privy pail closets removed	...	...	1

PUBLIC HOUSES

Visits were made to all licensed premises within the area, cellars, pipe lines, glasses, washing facilities and sanitary accommodation were inspected and the recommendations notified to the landlords or brewers have all been complied with.

Two premises with lead beer pipes replaced these with stainless steel, two new sanitary conveniences were provided, one cellar was rebuilt and a number of cellars and premises linewashed.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are two camping sites licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and one hutment at Hummershill. Visits have been regularly made to these premises and notices served on the licencees where necessary. The conditions under which the licences were granted are in my opinion not sufficient to properly control these and are at present under review.

SHOPS ACT, 1934

Visits have been made to shops in connection with the provisions of sanitary and washing accommodation. Washing accommodation has been provided in three cases and sanitary conveniences in one case where these facilities were not available.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919

A part-time Rodent Operator is employed to carry out the recommendations of the Ministries in connection with sewer treatments and to deal with any infestations which occur. Two treatments of the sewer system were carried out successfully, and an estimated kill for the year ending December, 1947, is 1,628 rats.

SQUATTERS' CAMP, LONG BECK ESTATE, MARSKE

At the year ending December, 1947, there were 56 families living in huts at this Military Camp consisting of 162 persons.

The Council have carried out alterations to these huts to divide them up into rooms and provide coal fired cooking range, piped water supply, glazed sink and drain and separate water closet accommodation for each family.

The premises generally are kept in a clean condition and the occupants are making the best of these premises.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of New Houses completed in 1947 :—

(a) Council	...	...	...	...	40
(b) Other	...	...	...	...	5

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :				
(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	98	
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	254	
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. ...	12	
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	36	
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil	
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	90	
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :				
(1)		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of action by the local authority or their officers ...	86	
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses where work is in progress but not yet complete ...	Nil	
(3)		Number of notices in course of preparation (not yet served) ...	Nil	
(4)		Number of notices outstanding ...	Nil	
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :				
A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :				
(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil	
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
	(a)	By owners ...	Nil	
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil	
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :				
(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	4	
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
	(a)	By owners ...	3	
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil	
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :				
(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil	
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil	
D.—Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 :				
(1)		Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil	
(2)		Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	Nil	

4. HOUSING ACT, 1935. OVERCROWDING :

(a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	} Not Available
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year						6
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year						6
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	29
(d) Particulars of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

In conclusion, I wish to express my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their assistance and support, the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. N. M. Macdonald, for his encouragement and advice, the Clerk to the Council, the Surveyor and other officials for their co-operation.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

N. R. DARLING,
Sanitary Inspector.

